

REMARKS

This responds to the final Office Action mailed April 11, 2003. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-12, 14, 17 and 18 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 17 and 18 are the independent claims.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner indicated the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 10 and 14. These claims have been amended in an effort to clarify their scope and to make them depend properly from their respective independent claims and any intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that these claims continue to define allowable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The claims have been amended to overcome the § 112, second paragraph rejections. The Examiner's assistance in this regard is greatly appreciated.

Independent Claim 1

In the "Response to Arguments" section of the final Office Action, the Examiner states, "Also, applicant argues that Kindgren's clamps are not moved laterally by drive means relative to the carriage. The Examiner agrees, but the above limitations are missing from claim 1."

Applicant respectfully notes that claim 1 includes the following limitation (emphasis added): "at least one of the pickup elements (16) being movable laterally by said first drive means (36) *on said movable device and relative to said movable device independently of the other pickup elements (16) in a direction (H) at right angles to the feed direction (F; F2).*" The "movable device" corresponds to the carriage. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and claims 2, 4-7, 10-12 and 14 are in condition for allowance.

With particular reference to dependent claims 2, 4-7, 10-12 and 14, these claims further define the panel sawing machine of claim 1. In particular, some of these claims specify the movement of *multiple pickup elements* in multiple directions relative to the movable [carriage] device. It is respectfully submitted that none of the documents of record disclose or fairly suggest the structures recited in claims 2, 4-7, 10-12 and 14.

Independent Claim 17

Claim 17 has been amended to overcome the § 112, second paragraph, rejection. Claim 17 defines a panel sawing machine comprising first and second drive means. At least one of the pickup elements is movable bi-directionally by the first drive means independently of the other pickup elements relative to the movable device [carriage] and at right angles relative to the feed direction. Furthermore, at least one of the pickup elements is movable in the feed direction and opposite the feed direction by the second drive means relative to the movable device [carriage]. As such, for at least the reasons noted with respect to claim 1, claim 17 is also

submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 18

Independent claim 18 defines a panel sawing machine wherein at least one of the pickup elements moves relative to the movable device [carriage] in the feed direction and the opposite direction, and wherein at least two of the pickup elements move relative to the movable device [carriage] bi-directionally perpendicular with respect to said feed direction. None of the references of record teach or suggest the structure defined in claim 18 and, as such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

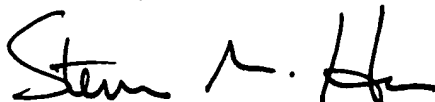
The French 2,694,516 Document

The newly cited French 2,694,516 document has been carefully studied. It is respectfully submitted that this document is no more than generally relevant to the claims of the present application. FR 2,694,516 refers to a machine for cutting logs with a band saw and utilizes a set of pick-ups that are aligned by means of cells to define the cutting line as a function of the original shape of the stock. Once the cutting line is defined it is not changed. Also, the pick-up elements are fixed in position relative to the length of the support carriage.

Conclusion

Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims define patentably over the documents of record and that this application meets all other statutory requirements. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Haas", written over a horizontal line.

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